

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,
5 said system comprising:

6 a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice
7 response applications providing interactive voice
8 response functionality is stored, each of said
9 applications including an executable component for
10 execution by said hosting system; and

11 uploading means for independently uploading said
12 plurality of interactive voice response applications
13 through a second telecommunication network by a
14 plurality of independent value-added service
15 providers, wherein

16 at least a plurality of said plurality of interactive
17 voice response applications uses a common speech
18 recognition module for executing on said system and
19 for utilizing common speech models associated with
20 said users, ~~run on said system,~~ and further wherein

21 said system is adapted to execute said voice response
22 application when one of said users calls said
23 system.

1 2. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a
3 common user profile database.

1 3. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 2,
2 wherein said common user profile database includes user
3 preferences.

1 4. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a delivery address for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1 5. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a billing address and/or
3 preferences for goods and services ordered with said value-
4 added service providers.

1 6. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-
3 specific speech models.

1 7. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 6,
2 comprising means for adapting said common speech models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 8. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 7,
2 wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses
3 recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech
4 models off-line.

1 9. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses Hidden
3 Markov Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models
4 adaptation module for adapting said models to said user.

1 10. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 9, wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows
3 for an incremental adaptation of said models.

1 11. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-
3 specific language models.

1 12. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 11, comprising means for adapting said common language models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 13. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses
3 selections previously made by said users.

1 14. (previously presented) The voice portal hosting
2 system of claim 13, wherein said selections previously made by
3 said users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for
4 improving the arborescence of the menus.

1 15. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a common user identification module
4 run on said system.

1 16. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses an
3 identification of the equipment used by said user in said
4 first telecommunication network.

1 17. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 16, being operated by a telecom operator of said first
3 telecommunication network, wherein said user identification
4 module uses an identification of the equipment used by said
5 user in said first telecommunication network even when said
6 identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of
7 said first telecommunication network.

1 18. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based
3 user identification module.

1 19. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said common speech recognition module uses a
3 speaker-dependant speech recognition algorithm, wherein said
4 speaker is identified by said common user identification
5 module.

1 20. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a common billing module and a common
4 clearing center for dispatching the collected amounts to said
5 value-added service providers.

1 21. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 20, wherein said common billing module allows for the billing
3 of transactions between said users and said value-added
4 service providers on a common bill prepared by the operator of
5 said voice portal hosting system.

1 22. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 20, wherein at least a plurality of said users have a deposit

3 account on said voice portal hosting system which can be used
4 for transactions with a plurality of said value-added service
5 providers.

1 23. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a user authentication module based
4 on an electronic signature and/or on biometric parameters of
5 said users.

1 24. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said second telecommunication network is a TCP/IP
3 network.

1 25. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 24, wherein at least some of said interactive voice response
3 applications are described with Voice extensible Markup
4 Language documents.

1 26. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 25, wherein a compilation module run on said system compiles
3 said interactive voice response applications.

1 27. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least one free interactive voice response
3 application is made available by the operator of said system.

1 28. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 27, wherein said free interactive voice response application
3 includes a free directory assistance service.

1 29. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication

3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using [[a]] voice
5 equipment, said system comprising a memory in which a
6 plurality of interactive voice response applications, each
7 including an executable component for execution by said
8 hosting system, for providing interactive voice response
9 functionality and that have been independently uploaded
10 through a second telecommunication network by a plurality of
11 independent value-added service providers, wherein at least a
12 plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses
13 a common speech recognition module run on said system, wherein
14 said common speech recognition module comprises a common user
15 profile database including user preferences, wherein said
16 common speech recognition module further uses common user-
17 specific speech models, and further wherein said system is
18 adapted to execute said voice response application when one of
19 said users calls said system; and still further wherein said
20 system further comprises means for adapting said common speech
21 models associated to a user during each dialogue between said
22 user and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 30. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of value-added service providers to set up an
3 interactive voice response application including an executable
4 component for execution by a voice portal hosting system
5 commonly used by said plurality of value-added service
6 providers, said voice response application for being ~~which can~~
7 ~~be~~ used by a plurality of users, comprising the steps of:
8 independently uploading said interactive voice response
9 applications which provide interactive voice
10 response functionality through a second
11 telecommunication network in [[a]] said voice portal

12 ~~hosting system commonly used by said plurality of~~
13 ~~value added service providers~~, at least a plurality
14 of said applications using a common speech
15 recognition module for executing on said hosting
16 system and for utilizing common speech models
17 associated with said users ~~run on said voice portal~~
18 ~~hosting system~~; and
19 executing said voice response application when one of
20 said users calls said system.

1 31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said
2 interactive voice response applications use a common user
3 profile database stored in said voice portal hosting system.

1 32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein said
2 interactive voice response applications use user preferences
3 stored in said common user profile database.

1 33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein said user
2 preferences include a delivery address for goods and/or
3 services ordered with said value-added service providers.

1 34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein said user
2 preferences include a billing address and/or preferences for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1 35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' speech
3 models.

1 36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said
2 common speech models associated to a user are adapted during

3 each dialogue between said users and each of said interactive
4 voice response applications.

1 37. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' language
3 models.

1 38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein said
2 common language models associated to a user are adapted during
3 each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive
4 voice response applications.

1 39. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses
3 a common user identification module run on said system.

1 40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2 identification module uses an identification of the equipment
3 used by said user in said first telecommunication network.

1 41. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein said voice
2 portal hosting system is operated by a telecom operator of
3 said first telecommunication network, wherein said user
4 identification module uses an identification of the equipment
5 used by said user in said first telecommunication network even
6 when said identification is not available for the other B-
7 subscribers of said first telecommunication network.

1 42. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2 identification module uses a voice-based speaker
3 identification module.

1 43. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said

2 common speech recognition module uses a speaker-dependant
3 speech recognition algorithm, said user being identified by
4 said common user identification module.

1 44. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use
3 a common billing module and a common clearing center for
4 dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added service
5 providers.

1 45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein said
2 common billing module allows for the billing of transactions
3 between said users and said value-added service providers on a
4 common bill prepared by the operator of said voice portal
5 hosting system.

1 46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said users have a deposit account on said system
3 which can be used for transactions with a plurality of said
4 value-added service providers.

1 47. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use
3 a user authentication module based on an electronic signature
4 and/or on biometric parameters of said users.

1 48. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least
2 some of said interactive voice response applications are
3 described with Voice extensible Markup Language documents.

1 49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein a
2 compilation module run on said voice portal hosting system
3 compiles said interactive voice response applications.

1 50. (currently amended) Method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of independent value-added service providers to set
3 up an interactive voice response applications each including
4 an executable component for execution by a voice portal
5 hosting system commonly used by said plurality of value-added
6 service providers and which can be used by a plurality of
7 users, comprising:

8 independently uploading said interactive voice response
9 applications which provide interactive voice
10 response functionality through a second
11 telecommunication network to said ~~in a~~ voice portal
12 hosting system ~~commonly used by said plurality of~~
13 ~~value added service providers,~~ and
14 executing said voice response application when one of
15 said users calls said system; wherein
16 at least a plurality of said applications use a common
17 speech recognition module for executing by ~~run on~~
18 said voice portal hosting system, and wherein
19 said common speech recognition module uses common users'
20 speech models, and wherein
21 said common speech models are associated to a user and
22 are adapted during each dialogue between said users
23 and any ~~each~~ of said interactive voice response
24 applications.

1 51. (original) Computer program product directly loadable
2 into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising
3 software code portions for performing the steps of one of the
4 claims 30 to 50 when said product is run on a server connected
5 to a first telecommunication network.